

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28

Introduced by Schye

2/11	Introduced
2/11	Referred to Labor & Employment Relations
2/12	First Reading

1                    HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28  
 2    INTRODUCED BY Schye  
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4    A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
 5    REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN  
 6    INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY PROPOSED PLANS FOR CLOSURE OF THE  
 7    GALEN CAMPUS OF THE MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL AND "DOWNSIZING"  
 8    OF THE MONTANA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER; AND REQUIRING THE  
 9    COMMITTEE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
 10   53RD LEGISLATURE.

11  
 12            WHEREAS, the Governor has proposed closure of the Galen  
 13    campus of the Montana State Hospital and "downsizing" of the  
 14    Montana Developmental Center; and

15            WHEREAS, closure of the Galen campus will result in the  
 16    layoff of 188 state employees; and

17            WHEREAS, closure of the Galen campus will require the  
 18    transfer of 163 patients and residents at Galen to other  
 19    state institutions, private nursing homes, and  
 20    community-based services; and

21            WHEREAS, "downsizing" of the Montana Developmental  
 22    Center will eliminate the jobs of 56 state employees in  
 23    fiscal year 1992 and 97 state employees in fiscal year 1993;  
 24    and

25            WHEREAS, the proposed "downsizing" will reduce the

1    average daily population at the Montana Developmental Center  
 2    by 70 residents, requiring an equal number of residents to  
 3    be placed in community-based services; and

4            WHEREAS, it is recognized that the rights and welfare of  
 5    the patients and residents at the Galen campus and Montana  
 6    Developmental Center should be considered in the closure or  
 7    "downsizing" of these state institutions; and

8            WHEREAS, it is also recognized that closure of the Galen  
 9    campus and "downsizing" of the Montana Developmental Center  
 10   may negatively affect the livelihood of state employees  
 11   working at these state institutions; and

12            WHEREAS, the proposal for closure of the Galen campus  
 13    and "downsizing" of the Montana Developmental Center will  
 14    impact the communities of Galen and Boulder, as well as  
 15    surrounding areas; and

16            WHEREAS, planning and procedures for closure of the  
 17    Galen campus and "downsizing" of the Montana Developmental  
 18    Center should be conducted in a manner that ensures fair and  
 19    equitable arrangements to protect the interests of patients  
 20    and residents, state employees, and communities affected by  
 21    the proposed closure and "downsizing" of these state  
 22    institutions; and

23            WHEREAS, it is recognized that in many states the  
 24    closure or "downsizing" of institutions caring for the  
 25    mentally disabled, frail elderly, or chemically dependent



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1 has resulted in adverse patient or resident outcomes,  
2 including death.

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4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
5 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

6 That an interim committee be established to study  
7 proposed plans for closure of the Galen campus of the  
8 Montana State Hospital and "downsizing" of the Montana  
9 Developmental Center.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as part of its study, the  
11 committee examine:

12 (1) the impact on patients and residents, state  
13 employees, and communities affected by the proposed closure  
14 of the Galen campus and "downsizing" of the Montana  
15 Developmental Center, including:

16 (a) the effect on the health and well-being of patients  
17 and residents as the result of being transferred or moved to  
18 other state institutions, private nursing homes, or  
19 community-based services;

20 (b) the projected displacement of state employees  
21 according to job classification;

22 (c) the extent to which job loss could be mitigated  
23 through retirement, retraining, and transfer of current  
24 state employees; and

25 (d) the projected economic loss to the communities of

1 Galen and Boulder, as well as surrounding areas;

2 (2) the quality of private community-based services for  
3 the patients and residents transferred from state  
4 institutions;

5 (3) the cost-effectiveness of the proposal for closure  
6 of the Galen campus and "downsizing" of the Montana  
7 Developmental Center;

8 (4) the effectiveness and feasibility of developing  
9 state-operated community-based services for the patients and  
10 residents of state institutions;

11 (5) the necessary adjustments in the executive budget  
12 to effect changes under the proposed plan for closure or  
13 "downsizing" of state institutions; and

14 (6) the necessary interagency agreements among  
15 appropriate state agencies needed to effect changes under  
16 the proposed plan.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee develop a  
18 plan and recommendations to protect the interests of  
19 patients and residents, state employees, and communities  
20 affected by the policy of closure of the Galen campus and  
21 "downsizing" of the Montana Developmental Center.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee report its  
23 findings and recommendations to the 53rd Legislature and, if  
24 appropriate, prepare legislation to implement its  
25 recommendations.

1       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of  
2       Institutions, the Governor's Office of Budget and Program  
3       Planning, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, and  
4       the Office of the Legislative Auditor assist and cooperate  
5       with the Legislative Council in conducting the study called  
6       for by this resolution.

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